

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named

Inventor : David S. Majkrzak

Appln. No.: 10/772,122

Filed : February 4, 2004

For : HIGH CAPACITY SICKLE SECTION

Docket No.: C136.12-0016

Group Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Torres

### DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, David Majkrzak, declare as follows:

- 1. I am the Vice President Engineering for Crary Company, the assignee of the present patent application, and have first-hand knowledge of the facts contained herein.
- 2. I am the inventor of the subject matter contained within the present patent application.
- 3. The present invention relates to a high efficiency sickle section for mounting to a cutting bar that is utilized to harvest crops such as soybeans and small grain including wheat and oats.
- 4. The unique design of the sickle sections includes concave cutting edges that increase the cutting capacity of the cutting bar relative to a cutting bar having sickle sections with straight cutting edges, due to the increased area between the cutting edges of adjacent sickle sections.
- 5. The increased capacity of the sickle bar allows the harvester to move more quickly through the field while cutting the stalks of the grain and thereby decrease the amount of time required to harvest the crops.
- 6. An increasing number of farmers are utilizing minimum tillage or no tillage farming techniques to decrease costs and reduce erosion to their fields by minimizing or altogether ceasing the practice of tilling the ground after a harvest and/or prior to planting the crops.
  - 7. When utilizing a minimum tillage or a no tillage

farming technique, the current crop is planted through the residue of the prior year's harvested crop.

- 8. While reducing tillage costs, the residue makes harvesting crops with a sickle bar more difficult due to the presence of upright stalks of residue, having a relatively large diameter, such as a corn stalk.
- 9. A corn stalk which remains standing from the previous year's harvest typically has sufficiently dried to have a hardness similar to wood which makes cutting the corn stalk difficult with a cutting bar.
- 10. The issue of standing corn stalks in no tillage or minimum tillage fields of soy beans or small grain during harvest has been made worse with the introduction of genetically modified corn that is resistant to borer insects. The genetically modified corn is commonly referred to as "Biotech Corn" and does not readily degrade which causes more stalks from the previous year's harvest to remain in an upright position. The stalk of the Biotech Corn, when dried through to the next harvest season, has a hardness that is greater than that of a typical corn stalk and is more difficult to cut with the cutting bar.
- 11. The corn stalks have a tendency to break sickle sections when the sickle section engages and attempts to cut the previous year's corn stalks, which causes down time on the harvester and increases the time required to complete the harvest.
- 12. The present claimed invention provides for a high capacity sickle section and cutting bar that has a large area between the concave surfaces of the adjacent sickle sections to allow the harvest to be completed more quickly, while providing the structural integrity to withstand contact with the corn stalks in no tillage or minimum tillage fields.
- 13. Crary Corporation, as a routine matter of business, provides evaluation/feedback forms along with purchased product.

I review the evaluation/feedback forms to determine if the products are meeting the customer's expectations.

- 14. Attached as Exhibit A is an evaluation/feedback form from a farm implement dealer stating that the "King Kut", the trademark given to the sickle section of the present invention, increased the sales of cutting system products and is the most requested part for cutting systems.
- Attached as Exhibit B is an evaluation/feedback form from a farmer located in Springfield, Illinois that states that the King Kut product is the only one that he has found that does a good job of cutting no-till beans that were planted in the previous year's corn stalks.
- 16. Attached as Exhibit C is an evaluation/feedback form from a farmer located in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada that states that the King Kut system allowed for an increase in cutting speed while lightening the cutting bar and maintaining durability.

The undersigned being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. \$1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validly of the application or document or any registration resulting there from, declares that all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true; and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

(Signaturé)

David Majkrzak, Vice President Engineering

(Print or Type Name and Position) P- Ens

Navid Maj Kuzak

(Date)

Aug 23, 2006

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